



Number Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 I'm the number of legs on a spider, the arms on an octopus and the sides of a stop sign. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 2 I'm an odd number. Take away one letter and I become even. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 3 I'm a two-digit number. My tens digit is 3, and my ones digit is double my tens digit. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 4 I'm the biggest two-digit number. Add just 1 to me and I suddenly need a third digit. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 5 I'm between 10 and 20. I'm odd, and my two digits add up to 4. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 6 Turn me upside down and I become 3 smaller. What digit am I?

ANSWER _____

- 7 I'm a counting number. Add me to myself or multiply me by myself, and you get the same answer. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 8 If you add two odd numbers together, is the answer odd or even?

ANSWER _____

- 9 I'm a three-digit number. My hundreds digit is 1 more than my tens digit, and my tens digit is 1 more than my ones digit. My digits add up to 12. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 10 How many times can you subtract 5 from 25?

ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 11 When you spell me out in English, I have exactly as many letters as my value. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

- 12 Three different positive whole numbers give the same answer whether you add them or multiply them. What are they?
ANSWER _____
- 13 Think of any number. Double it, add 34, halve the result, then subtract the number you started with. What's your answer?
ANSWER _____
- 14 If you write every whole number from 1 to 100, how many times do you write the digit 9?
ANSWER _____
- 15 My grandma's age is both a square number and a cube number. She's older than 1 and younger than 100. How old is she?
ANSWER _____
- 16 I'm a two-digit number whose digits add up to 7. Swap my digits and the new number is 45 bigger than me. What number am I?
ANSWER _____
- 17 I'm the only number whose letters, when spelled in English, are in alphabetical order. What number am I?
ANSWER _____
- 18 Which is more: six dozen dozen, or half a dozen dozen?
ANSWER _____
- 19 I'm a three-digit even number. I read the same forwards and backwards, and my digits add up to 5. What number am I?
ANSWER _____
- 20 A plate holds 30 cookies. At lunch, half of them are eaten. At snack time, a third of the cookies that are left are eaten. How many cookies are still on the plate?
ANSWER _____
- 21 Multiply together every number on a phone's keypad. What's the answer?
ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★ ★

- 22 A bat and a ball cost \$1.10 together. The bat costs \$1.00 more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?
ANSWER _____
- 23 How many squares of any size are there on a chessboard?
ANSWER _____
- 24 Six friends meet, and everyone shakes hands with everyone else exactly once. How many handshakes are there?
ANSWER _____

25 What comes next: 1, 11, 21, 1211, 111221, ?

ANSWER _____

26 The pages of a book are numbered from 1, and it takes 192 digits to number them all. How many pages does the book have?

ANSWER _____

27 Multiply together every whole number from 1 to 10: $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times 10$. How many zeros are at the end of the answer?

ANSWER _____

28 A girl says, "The day before yesterday I was 10. Next year I'll turn 13." She's telling the truth. What is today's date, and when is her birthday?

ANSWER _____

29 Starting at exactly 12 noon and counting noon itself, how many times do the hour and minute hands of a clock lie exactly on top of each other before midnight?

ANSWER _____

30 A schoolboy was told to add up all the numbers from 1 to 100, and he did it in moments. What's the total?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Number Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **8.** A spider has 8 legs, an octopus 8 arms, and an octagon 8 sides.
2. **Seven.** Take away the S and you're left with "even."
3. **36.** Tens digit 3, ones digit $3 \times 2 = 6$.
4. **99.** $99 + 1 = 100$.
5. **13.** $1 + 3 = 4$ (**11** gives 2, **15** gives 6, **17** gives 8, **19** gives 10).
6. **9.** Upside down, 9 becomes 6, and $9 - 6 = 3$.
7. **2.** $2 + 2 = 4$ and $2 \times 2 = 4$.
8. **Always even.** $3 + 5 = 8$ and $7 + 9 = 16$. The two "leftover" ones make a pair.
9. **543.** $5 + 4 + 3 = 12$, and each digit is 1 less than the one before it.
10. **Once.** After that, you're subtracting 5 from 20, not from 25.
11. **Four.** F-O-U-R has 4 letters. No other number word matches: one, two, six and ten have 3 letters; five and nine have 4; three, seven and eight have 5.
12. **1, 2 and 3.** $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$ and $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$.
13. **17, every time.** $(2n + 34) \div 2 = n + 17$, and $n + 17 - n = 17$.
14. **20.** Ones place: 9, 19, 29 ... 99 is 10. Tens place: 90 to 99 is 10 more.
15. **64.** $8 \times 8 = 64$ and $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$.
16. **16.** $61 - 16 = 45$, and $1 + 6 = 7$.
17. **Forty.** F, O, R, T, Y are in alphabetical order.
18. **Six dozen dozen.** $6 \times 12 \times 12 = 864$, but half a dozen dozen is $6 \times 12 = 72$.
19. **212.** $2 + 1 + 2 = 5$, and it ends in 2, so it's even.
20. **10.** $30 \div 2 = 15$ left; $15 \div 3 = 5$ eaten; $15 - 5 = 10$.
21. **0.** The keypad has a 0 on it, and anything multiplied by 0 is 0.
22. **5 cents.** The bat is \$1.05, and $\$1.05 + \$0.05 = \$1.10$.
23. **204.** $64 + 49 + 36 + 25 + 16 + 9 + 4 + 1 = 204$.
24. **15.** $6 \times 5 = 30$, divided by 2 because each handshake was counted twice.
25. **312211.** The term 111221 is "three 1s, two 2s, one 1."
26. **100.** Pages 1-9 use 9 digits, pages 10-99 use 180, which makes 189; 3 more digits is one three-digit page, page 100.
27. **2.** The answer is 3,628,800. Only 5 and 10 bring a factor of 5, and there are plenty of 2s to pair with them, so you get exactly two zeros.
28. **Today is January 1st, and her birthday is December 31st.** She was 10 on December 30, turned 11 on December 31, turns 12 this December and 13 next December.
29. **11.** The minute hand goes around 12 times while the hour hand goes around once, so it gains 11 laps. The hands meet every $12/11$ of an hour (about every 1 hour 5 minutes 27 seconds): at 12:00, about 1:05, 2:11 ... up to about 10:54.
30. **5050.** There are 50 pairs that each add up to 101, and $50 \times 101 = 5050$. The boy, the story goes, was Carl Friedrich Gauss.

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/number-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.